

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Aurora, CO

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

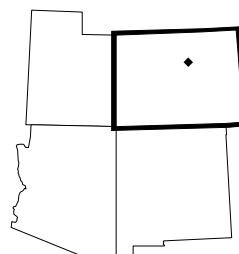
EPA has selected the City of Aurora (population 222,110) for a Brownfields Pilot. The Pilot targets Original Aurora, a five-square-mile area representing the oldest part of the city. During the 1980s, Original Aurora experienced falling property values, deterioration of private properties and public infrastructure, and a rising crime rate. The target area contains numerous potentially contaminated sites due to such historic and current business uses as service stations, automotive repair shops, dry cleaners, and print shops.

The recent closings of Lowry Air Force Base, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, and Stapleton Airport have added to the existing economic stress in Original Aurora. Original Aurora has a 19 percent poverty rate compared to 6 percent for the city as a whole, and an unemployment rate that is more than double that of the city (11 percent versus 4.2 percent). The minority rate is 29.4 percent in Old Aurora compared to 15.5 percent in the city.

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's objective is to incorporate brownfields activities into an integrated city revitalization strategy, which also includes business diversification, transit improvements, open space and recreation improvements, street beautification, and public safety.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Aurora, Colorado

Date of Announcement:
March 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets Original Aurora, a five-square-mile area representing the oldest part of the city.

Contacts:

Original Aurora Renewal
City of Aurora
(303) 361-2936

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 8
(303) 312-6837

Visit the EPA Region 8 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/cross/brown/brownf.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

By conducting environmental assessments and cleanup planning in the brownfields target area, the Pilot hopes to set the groundwork for eliminating risks to public health and the environment, promoting cleanup and redevelopment, and involving local citizens in revitalization activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing environmental site assessments and creating cleanup plans for properties located in the target area; and
- Conducting educational and outreach forums to increase understanding among residents and to provide project updates to affected communities.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.